

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

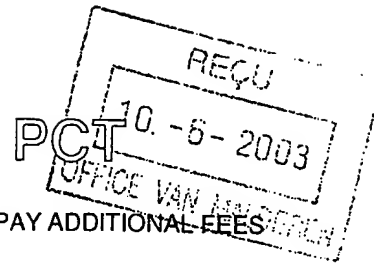
From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
OFFICE VAN MALDEREN
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EINSCHREIBEN

INVITATION TO PAY ADDITIONAL FEES

(PCT Article 17(3)(a) and Rule 40.1)



Applicant's or agent's file reference P. IBA. 41/WO	Date of mailing (day/month/year) 05/06/2003
International application No. PCT/BE 02/ 00172	International filing date (day/month/year) 14/11/2002
Applicant ION BEAM APPLICATIONS S.A.	

1. This International Searching Authority

(i) considers that there are 0002 (number of) inventions claimed in the international application covered by the claims indicated ~~below~~ on the extra sheet:

and it considers that the international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3) for the reasons indicated ~~below~~ on the extra sheet:

(ii) ☒ has carried out a partial international search (see Annex) ☐ will establish the international search report on those parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos.:
1-23

(iii) will establish the international search report on the other parts of the international application only if, and to the extent to which, additional fees are paid

2. The applicant is hereby invited, within the time limit indicated above, to pay the amount indicated below:

EUR 945,00 x 0001 = EUR 945,00
 Fee per additional invention number of additional inventions total amount of additional fees

Or, _____ x _____ = _____

The applicant is informed that, according to Rule 40.2(c), the payment of any additional fee may be made under protest, i.e., a reasoned statement to the effect that the international application complies with the requirement of unity of invention or that the amount of the required additional fee is excessive.

3. ☐ Claim(s) Nos. _____ have been found to be unsearchable under Article 17(2)(b) because of defects under Article 17(2)(a) and therefore have not been included with any invention.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Christine Voigt <i>C. Voigt</i>
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This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-23

An irradiation system comprising a radiation source and a conveyor system for transporting articles through a radiation beam path. An inner shield is disposed around the radiation source and an outer shield is disposed around the inner shield and around at least a part of the conveyor system.

The irradiation system may be arranged in an upper level and a lower level comprising a shielded radiation source in the upper level, said radiation source being arranged to emit two radiation beams for irradiating articles respectively on the upper level and on the lower level. In this case, two conveyor systems provide for transporting articles through the respective beam paths.

2. Claims: 24-29

A method of removing a radiation source from an irradiation system comprising an inner shield and an outer shield, the method comprising disconnecting removable modules respectively from the outer shield and from the inner shield and removing the radiation source through openings left by the removable modules.

The feature of the first invention (claims 1-23) not disclosed by the prior art (US 6 215 847) is seen in claim 3, i.e. the upper and lower level being separated by a support surface, the at least one beam path including a vertically extending beam path extending through a path aperture in the support surface for irradiating articles conveyed by the second conveyor system.

The second invention (claims 24-29) is a method of removing a radiation source from an irradiation system comprising disconnecting removable modules which are considered as special technical features.

The purposes underlying the two inventions are clearly different, namely radiation through an aperture towards a lower level on one hand and ease of access for removing the radiation source on the other hand.

In addition the special technical features of the two inventions are neither the same nor corresponding.

Therefore there is no technical relationship among those two inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. Consequently the requirement of Rule 13.1 PCT is not fulfilled since there is no technical relationship among the two inventions according to Rule 13.2 PCT.

1. The present communication is an Annex to the invitation to pay additional fees (Form PCT/ISA/206). It shows the results of the international search established on the parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos. 1-23.
2. This communication is not the international search report which will be established according to Article 18 and Rule 43.
3. If the applicant does not pay any additional search fees, the information appearing in this communication will be considered as the result of the international search and will be included as such in the international search report.
4. If the applicant pays additional fees, the international search report will contain both the information appearing in this communication and the results of the international search on other parts of the international application for which such fees will have been paid.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 215 847 B1 (PERRINS ROBERT ET AL) 10 April 2001 (2001-04-10) column 8, line 34 -column 10, line 36; figures 1A-4,7	1,2,18
X	WO 00 68955 A (TITAN CORP) 16 November 2000 (2000-11-16) page 2, line 28 -page 7, line 13; figures 1,2	1,4,5, 9-11
X	WO 99 67793 A (TITAN CORP) 29 December 1999 (1999-12-29) page 2, line 15 -page 6, line 5; figures 1,2	1,4,5, 9-11
X	WO 01 25754 A (TITAN CORP) 12 April 2001 (2001-04-12) page 6, line 5 -page 17, line 22; figures 1-7	1,4
X	US 3 564 241 A (LUDWIG ALFRED) 16 February 1971 (1971-02-16) column 2, line 38 -column 3, line 40; figure 1	1,4
X	US 5 400 382 A (WELT MARTIN A ET AL) 21 March 1995 (1995-03-21) column 5, line 15 - line 52; figures 1,5	1
	-/-	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Annex to Form PCT/ISA/206
COMMUNICATION RELATING TO THE RESULTS
OF THE PARTIAL INTERNATIONAL SEARCH

International Application No
PCT/BE 02/00172

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 446 374 A (IVANOV ANDREI S ET AL) 1 May 1984 (1984-05-01) the whole document ---	1
A	EP 0 633 466 A (GAMMA METRICS) 11 January 1995 (1995-01-11) abstract; figure 1 -----	1,5-7

Patent Family Annex

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/BE 02/00172

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6215847	B1	10-04-2001	NONE	
WO 0068955	A	16-11-2000	US 6294791 B1 AU 6042299 A CA 2370874 A1 EP 1181696 A1 WO 0068955 A1	25-09-2001 21-11-2000 16-11-2000 27-02-2002 16-11-2000
WO 9967793	A	29-12-1999	US 6127687 A AU 4441399 A CA 2335319 A1 CN 1315043 T EP 1090397 A1 JP 2002519647 T WO 9967793 A1 US 6294791 B1 US 6236055 B1	03-10-2000 10-01-2000 29-12-1999 26-09-2001 11-04-2001 02-07-2002 29-12-1999 25-09-2001 22-05-2001
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US 3564241	A	16-02-1971	CH 476375 A BE 714458 A ES 353217 A1 FR 1573129 A GB 1187741 A	31-07-1969 30-10-1968 01-02-1970 04-07-1969 15-04-1970
US 5400382	A	21-03-1995	NONE	
US 4446374	A	01-05-1984	NONE	
EP 0633466	A	11-01-1995	US 5396071 A AU 676051 B2 AU 6736994 A DE 69412720 D1 DE 69412720 T2 EP 0633466 A1 FI 943180 A JP 7167802 A US RE36943 E	07-03-1995 27-02-1997 19-01-1995 01-10-1998 25-03-1999 11-01-1995 10-01-1995 04-07-1995 07-11-2000